

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A laundry basket, comprising:
  - a bottom wall with an outer periphery;
  - a contiguous sidewall extending up from the outer periphery of the bottom wall and defining an interior of the laundry basket;
  - a top portion of the sidewall forming a substantially peripheral lip; and
  - a portion of the peripheral lip transitioning into a handle having a grip and a knuckle guard spaced outward from the grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket, the grip and the knuckle guard disposed substantially level with the lip, the grip sized and shaped to permit a user to curl his or her fingers around the grip.
2. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 8 claim 1, wherein the contiguous sidewall includes a first, second, third and fourth sidewall extending up from the bottom wall, the first and second sidewalls being opposite from each other, the third and fourth sidewalls being opposite from each other.
3. (original) The laundry basket of claim 2, wherein the contiguous sidewall is substantially rectangular, and wherein the first and second sidewalls are relatively longer than the third and fourth sidewalls.
4. (previously presented) The laundry basket of claim 2, wherein the first grip is disposed on the first sidewall, and further comprising:

a second grip operatively connected to the second sidewall, and a second knuckle guard disposed outward from the second grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.

5. (previously presented) The laundry basket of claim 4, further comprising:  
a third grip operatively connected to the third sidewall and a third knuckle guard disposed outward from the third grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.

6. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 8 claim 1, wherein the contiguous sidewall includes a concavely arched sidewall adapted to bear against the user.

7. (original) The laundry basket of claim 6, wherein the contiguous sidewall further includes a first, second, and third sidewall.

8. (currently amended) A laundry basket, comprising:  
a bottom wall with an outer periphery;  
a contiguous sidewall extending up from the outer periphery of the bottom wall and  
defining an interior of the laundry basket;  
a top portion of the sidewall forming a substantially peripheral lip; and  
a portion of the peripheral lip transitioning into a handle having a grip and a knuckle  
guard spaced outward from the grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket, the  
grip and the knuckle guard disposed substantially level with the lip;

~~The laundry basket of claim 1, the first handle including a first side opening in the contiguous sidewall, the first grip being formed as a portion of the contiguous sidewall above the first side opening.~~

9. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 8 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the first knuckle guard is disposed on the side of the contiguous sidewall opposite the interior of the basket.

10. (withdrawn) The laundry basket of claim 1, wherein the first grip is disposed inwardly from the contiguous sidewall into the interior of the laundry basket.

11. (withdrawn) The laundry basket of claim 10, wherein the first knuckle guard is formed as part of the contiguous sidewall.

12. (withdrawn) The laundry basket of claim 11, wherein the sidewall includes at least one vent.

13. (currently amended) The laundry basket of claim 8 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the first knuckle guard is a bar.

14. (currently amended) A laundry basket, comprising:

    a base including an outer periphery, the base defining a base plane;

    a sidewall extending up from the outer periphery of the base, defining an interior of the basket;

    a first grip operatively coupled to an upper end of the sidewall, the first grip including a lower surface facing downwardly and sized and shaped to permit a user to place his or her fingers underneath the grip such that the user can lift the basket by pressing upwardly on the lower surface; and

    a first knuckle guard spaced from the first grip in a direction generally parallel to the base plane and away from the interior of the basket.

15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented) The laundry basket of claim 14, wherein the first knuckle guard is a bar.

17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended) A portable container, comprising:

a base including an outer periphery;

a sidewall extending up from the outer periphery of the base and having a top edge,  
the sidewall defining an interior of the container;

a rim disposed on a top edge of the sidewall and extending laterally outward away  
from the interior of the container;

a first grip operatively coupled to the sidewall and disposed adjacent the top edge;

and

a knuckle guard spaced away from the first grip in a direction away from the interior  
of the basket and substantially level with the first grip, the knuckle guard being defined at  
least in part by a portion of the rim; and

a gap defined between the grip and the knuckle guard, the gap being sized to permit a  
user to insert his or her fingers through the gap, wherein the grip is sized and shaped to  
permit a user to curl his or her fingers around the grip while his or her fingers are disposed in  
the gap.

19. (previously presented) The container of claim 18, wherein the rim includes a lip  
extending outward from the sidewall and a edge extending down from the lip, the edge at  
least in part forming the knuckle guard.

20. (previously presented) The container of claim 14, further comprising a second  
grip formed on an upper end of the sidewall opposite the first handle, and a second knuckle  
guard disposed spaced outward from the second grip in a direction away from the interior of  
the basket.

21. (previously presented) The container of claim 20, further comprising a third grip formed on an upper end of the sidewall, and a third knuckle guard disposed spaced outward from the third grip in a direction away from the interior of the basket.

22. (new) The container of claim 14, wherein the lower surface is a non-planar surface.